AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) An anti-counterfeiting method, comprising:

creating from an object a first data set having data in a first data arrangement;

modifying the data within said first data set to create a second data arrangement for said first data set;

determining whether data on an object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first or second data arrangement for said first data set by comparing said object presented for validation to both said first and said second data arrangements; and

if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the first or second data arrangement for said first data set, accepting said object presented for validation, else rejecting said object presented for validation.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, providing at least one object with said first data set.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the data within said first data set is modified every time an object is provided with said first data set.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein an attribute of the data within said first data set is modified every time an object is provided with said first data set.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the first data arrangement for said first data set:

determining whether another object having the first data set in the first data arrangement has previously been accepted;

rejecting said object presented for validation if it is determined that another object having the first data set in the first data arrangement has previously been accepted;

if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the second data arrangement for said first data set:

determining whether another object having the first data set in the second data arrangement has previously been accepted; and

rejecting said object presented for validation if it is determined that another object having the first data set in the second data arrangement has previously been accepted.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said at least one object includes a memory, and wherein providing at least one object with said first data set comprises transferring the first data set to said memory.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said at least one object further comprises a microprocessor, the microprocessor modifying the data within the first data set transferred to said memory to create a plurality of data arrangements for the first data set transferred to said memory, said memory storing at least one of said plurality of data arrangements.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one object further comprises a clock, said microprocessor accessing the clock to modify the first data set transferred to said memory according to a time interval.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, providing a plurality of objects with said first data set, and wherein the data within said first data set is modified after a preset number of the plurality of objects have been provided with said first data set.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the first data arrangement for said first data set:

determining whether a preset number of other objects having the first data set in the first data arrangement have been accepted;

rejecting said object presented for validation if it is determined that a present number of other objects having the first data set in the first data arrangement have previously been accepted;

if the data on said object presented for validation is determined to be consistent with the data of the second data arrangement for said first data set:

determining whether a preset number of other objects having the first data set in the second data arrangement have previously been accepted; and

rejecting said object presented for validation if it is determined that a present number of other objects having the first data set in the second data arrangement have previously been accepted.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, maintaining a record of the first and second data arrangements for said first data set.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first data set comprises a first bitmap of image data representative of a first image, the first bitmap of image data including a first plurality of pixels, and wherein modifying the data within said first data set comprises changing at least one attribute of at least one of said first plurality of pixels.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the data on said object presented for validation comprises a second bitmap of image data representative of a second image, the second bitmap of image data including a second plurality of pixels.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein determining whether data on an object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first or second data arrangement for said first data set comprises:

determining whether each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is consistent with a corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the first data arrangement;

if each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is determined to be consistent with the corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the first data arrangement, accepting said object presented for validation, else:

determining whether each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is consistent with a corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the second data arrangement; and

if each pixel of the second plurality of pixels is determined to be consistent with the corresponding pixel of the first plurality of pixels in the

second data arrangement, accepting said object presented for validation, else
rejecting said object presented for validation.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein determining whether data on an
object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first or second data
arrangement for said first data set comprises:

calculating a first reference sum for the first plurality of pixels in the first data
arrangement;

calculating a second reference sum for said second plurality of pixels;

determining whether said second reference sum is consistent with said first reference
sum;

if the second reference sum is determined to be consistent with the first reference
sum, accepting said object presented for validation, else:

calculating a third reference sum for the first plurality of pixels in the second
data arrangement;

determining whether said second reference sum is consistent with said third
reference sum; and

if the second reference sum is determined to be consistent with
the third reference sum, accepting said object presented for validation, else
rejecting said object presented for validation.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising, displaying said first
and second images.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first data arrangement has a
first time stamp associated therewith, wherein said second data arrangement as a second time
stamp associated therewith, wherein said data on said object presented for validation has a
third time stamp associated therewith, and wherein determining whether data on an object
presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first or second data arrangement for
said first data set comprises:

determining whether the third time stamp is consistent with the first or second time stamp;

if the third time stamp is determined to be consistent with the first time stamp, rejecting said object presented for validation unless it is determined that the data on said object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the first data arrangement for said first data set;

if the third time stamp is determined to be consistent with the second time stamp, rejecting said object presented for validation unless it is determined that the data on said object presented for validation is consistent with the data of the second data arrangement for said first data set; and

if the third time stamp is not determined to be consistent with the first or second time stamp, rejecting said object presented for validation.

18.   (Currently Amended) An anti-counterfeiting system, comprising:

a first data set having data in a first data arrangement <u>created from an object</u>, the data within said first data set being modifiable to create a second data arrangement for said first data set;

data reading apparatus, said data reading apparatus reading data on an object; and

a data processing system operatively associated with said data reading apparatus, the data processing system receiving the data on said object from said data reading apparatus, the data processing system determining whether the data on said object is consistent with the data of the first ~~or~~ <u>and</u> second data arrangements for said first data set, said object being accepted if said data processing system determines that the data on said object is consistent with the data of the first ~~or~~ <u>and</u> second data arrangement for said first data set, said object being rejected if said data processing system does not determine that the data on said object is consistent with the data of the first ~~or~~ <u>and</u> second data arrangement for said first data set.

19.   (Original) The anti-counterfeiting system of claim 18, further comprising at least one object, said at least one object comprising a memory, said first data set being transferable to the memory of said at least one object.

20.   (Currently Amended) An anti-counterfeiting system, comprising:

a data processing system for modifying data within a computer readable storage device having a first data arrangement to create a second data arrangement for said data, for determining whether data on an object is consistent with the data of the first ~~or~~ <u>and</u> second data arrangement, and for accepting said object if the data on said object is determined to be consistent with the data of the first ~~or~~ <u>and</u> second data arrangement, else of rejecting said object.